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ST. NEOTS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1945.

ADVERTISER OFFICE, ST. NEOTS.

ST. NEOTS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

with the Compliments

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

32A, New Street,
ST. NEOTS,
Hunts.

St. Neots Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945,

BY

EDWARD J. CROSS, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Circumstances in your District for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

In all probability this will be the last report which I shall make, and I should like to express my appreciation and gratitude to my colleagues for their invariable courtesy and ready help: Mr. Dear (Clerk), Mr. Dunning, M.S.I.A., whose departure I regret, Mr. Beddow (Water Engineer), and Mr. Fawcett, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. (now Chief Sanitary Inspector), as well as the Chairman and individual Members of the Council.

It has always been a pleasure to serve the R.D.C. and I regret that advanced age compels me to resign at the end of my tenure of office.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD J. CROSS.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres: 52,559 (approximately 81 square miles).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1945 according to the Rate Books: 2,214.

Two new houses have been built during the year and no old houses have been demolished.

The Rateable Value of the District is £24,654.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate is £98-14-0.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population is 6,830.

The District is almost entirely agricultural.

There is a great shortage of houses and many of the existing houses are badly in need of repair. Owing to the shortage of labour and materials it has been impossible to get many necessary repairs completed.

In my opinion the shortage of houses is the most crying need of the present time.

It appears to me that much of the good done by supplying children with extra milk or advice given by the Infant Welfare is destroyed by the environment in which they are compelled to live.

VILLAGES INCLUDED IN THE AREA:—

		Population in 1921.		Population in 1931.
Abbotsley	...	321		263
Buckden	...	998		1037
Catworth	...	384		318
Covington	...	109		82
Diddington	...	175		172
Eynesbury Hardwicke	...	139		139
Grafham	...	201		200
Great Gransden	...	458		395
Great Paxton	...	306		292
Great Staughton	...	685		651
Hail Weston	...	265		236
Kimbolton	...	902	(School Term)	699
Little Paxton	...	210		229
Midloe	...	33		40
Offord Cluny	...	205		217
Offord D'Arcy	...	293		291
St. Neots Rural	...	90		68
Southoe	...	214		211
Stow	...	90		90
Tetworth	...	159		131
Tilbrook	...	192		202
Toseland	...	138		145
Waresley	...	183		167
Yelling	...	225		193
Total	...	6975		6468

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the area in 1944 was 7,244, for 1945 it was 6,830.

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Civilians Only.

During the year ending 31st December, 1945.

Measles	...	112
Whooping Cough	...	19
Erysipelas	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	18
Jaundice	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	3
Diphtheria	...	2
Dysentery	...	1
Pulmonary Tubercle	...	4
Total	...	166

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year ending 31st December, 1945, four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1 M. and 3 F.) were notified.

No case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified.

At the present time (7-5-46) there are fifteen cases of Pulmonary Tubercle (8 M. and 7 F.) on my register and four of Non-Pulmonary (2 M. and 2 F.).

Owing to the fact that I am not always notified of the occurrence of fresh cases and frequently have no knowledge that cases have died or left the district, my register has been very unreliable. The Assistant County Medical Officer (Dr. Bebbington) has very kindly helped me to correct it and arranged that in future I shall receive the necessary information.

I believe that there is less tuberculosis in the district than there was ten years ago.

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year ending 31st December, 1945, two cases of Diphtheria were notified. One was a gipsy child in a caravan, aged 12 years; the other, a child aged 4 years, had been immunised. I Schicked her twin sister and found her Negative.

Out of 42 children who had been immunised and who I Schicked during the month of December only 3 gave faint positive reactions. I do not think that children are coming to be immunised as readily as they were two years ago because during 1945 (with 160 births in 1944) only 61 were immunised. During 1943 108 births were registered, therefore, I estimate that now, less than 50 per cent. of the children are being immunised. I have no record of the number of children who are immunised by their own family doctors, but I believe the number is small, almost negligible.

The Registrar General's estimate of the number of children resident in the district is:—Age group 0—4 (inclusive) 540
Age group 5—14 (inclusive) 991

Total 1531

Arrangements have now been made for the Registrar when he registers the birth to hand to the parent the pamphlet "Diphtheria Is Dangerous" and the postcard "Please Arrange to Have My Child Immunised."

LIVE BIRTHS.

60 male and 58 female (total 118) were registered during the year. 15 of these were illegitimate. 3 still births were also recorded and the deaths of two infants under one year of age.

The birth-rate for the district is 17.2; for England and Wales it is 16.1.

DEATHS.

94 deaths were registered in the district during 1945. This gives a death rate of 13.7; for England and Wales it was 11.4.

CAUSES OF DEATH:—

	Males.	Females.
Pulmonary Tubercle	2	1
Influenza	1	1
Cancer	5	7
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	2	5
Heart Disease	9	14
Other Circulatory	6	5
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	4	1
Digestive Disease	3	1
Nephritis	-	2
Puerperal	-	1
Congenital Malformation	1	1
Suicide	-	1
Other Violence	-	1
Other Causes	6	9
Total	43	51

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Clerk to the Council: D. J. Dear. Tel. St. Neots 34.

Medical Officer of Health: E. J. Cross, M.D., D.P.H. Tel. St. Neots 68.

Chief Sanitary Officer and Surveyor: R. K. Dunning, M.S.I.A. (Mr. Dunning resigned on 13th January, 1946).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor: M. Fawcett, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I. (appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor in January, 1946). Tel. St. Neots 34 and Kimbolton 303.

Waterworks Engineer: D. Beddow. Tel. Buckden 282 and St. Neots 34.

Public Analyst: Dr. S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

Extensive use is also made of the E.M.S. Lab., Cambridge.

Food Inspection: Secs. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21 (2), 31, 37, 38 and 39 were delegated to the County Council. The effect of this has been to deprive me (the M.O.H.) of the powers conferred by these Sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Bakehouses have been inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon. Application has been made to the County Council for the restoration of these sections as from the 1-4-46.

Registrars: St. Neots—Mr. G. Bevan. Tel. St. Neots 31. Kimbolton—Mrs. A. M. Carter.

Vaccination Officer: Mr. G. Bevan. Tel. St. Neots 31.

CLINICS.

MENTAL TREATMENT.

The Mental Treatment Specialist may be consulted at the Bedford County Hospital every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. and at the Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey, every Thursday at 2.30 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Chest Consultant holds Clinics at the Out-patients' Department of the County Hospital, Huntingdon, on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month at 10.0 a.m.

EYE CLINICS.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon attends the Clinic at the rear of the Old Grammar School, Huntingdon, on the first and third Fridays in the month at 10.0 a.m.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINICS.

The Orthopædic Surgeon attends the Clinic at the rear of the Old Grammar School, Huntingdon, on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the month at 10.0 a.m.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

All cases recommended to see an Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist are sent to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, or Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

Appointments for all the above Clinics are made through the County Medical Officer.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Clinic at 28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Males—Tuesdays and Fridays, 6—7 p.m.; Females—Tuesdays and Fridays, 3.30—6 p.m.

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Males—Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. respectively; Females—Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY HOSPITAL X-RAY SERVICE.

Thursday afternoons at 2 o'clock. Routine session for non-urgent cases, including old fractures, chest cases, barium enemas and kidney examinations (for the two latter, appointments are necessary).

Thursday mornings (by appointment). Barium meals at 11 o'clock, with final examination at 5 o'clock.

Gall Bladder cases by appointment.

The Department will be open for urgent cases on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at 10.45 a.m.

It is requested that only very urgent cases be sent on Wednesday mornings, when the X-Ray Department will be normally closed.

All appointments should be made through the Matron.

WEEKLY CLINICS are held as follows:—

Tuesdays, 3 p.m., Dr. C. F. L. Patterson—Skin.

Thursdays, 10.15 a.m., Mr. H. B. Roderick—Orthopædic and General Surgery.

Thursdays, 10 a.m., Hunts. County Council—Chest Clinic.

Fridays, 10 a.m., Mr. S. Riddiough—Genito Urinary and General Surgery.

Fridays, 9.30 a.m., Mr. J. H. Threlfall—Dental.

Saturdays, 9.45 a.m., Mr. L. Phillips—Obstetrical and Gynæcological.

MONTHLY CLINICS:—

1st Tuesdays, 10.30 a.m., Mr. R. Weedon Butler—Orthopædic.

2nd Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Mr. A. S. H. Walford—Ear, Nose and Throat.

4th Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Dr. P. G. Ruston—Ditto.

(Signed) E. BRYANT,
Assistant Secretary.

11th April, 1946.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

A nurse residing at Great Staughton (telephone not yet installed) attends cases in Kimbolton, Great Staughton, Grafham, Perry, Tilbrook, Dillington and Hail Weston.

A nurse residing at Eltisley (Tel. Croxton 210) attends in Great Paxton, The Offords, Toseland, Yelling, Great Gransden, Waresley and Abbotsley.

A nurse residing at Brampton (Tel. Huntingdon 336) attends in Buckden, Diddington and Southoe.

Little Paxton is attended by a nurse living in St. Neots (Tel. St. Neots 215).

Catworth and Covington (Tel. Bythorn 217).

All these nurses are provided with motor cars and are under the supervision of the Hunts. County Council.

SANITARY TABLE, 1945.

WATER SUPPLY.

Developments during 1945—None.

Insufficiency and where ?—Water had to be carted to Grafham, Perry, Toseland, Yelling, parts of Buckden and Stow Longa (see table).

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Developments during 1945—None.

Developments still needed.—Whole district. A scheme for sewering all the larger villages has been generally approved by Ministry of Health.

Any inadequacy of Sewerage Disposal Works, or complaints as to smells ?—Yes. Far too many sewers discharge to ditches, etc., without any treatment.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with Open Middens.—Nil.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets.—1,322.

No. of Privies with Covered Middens.—Nil.

No. of Water Closets.—914.

No. of Waste Water Closets—Nil.

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1945—(a) as W.C.'s—4; (b) other —Nil.

No. of additional Closets newly constructed for old property in 1945 —(a) W.C.'s—7.

No. of Closets constructed in 1945 for new houses—(a) W.C.'s—3; (b) other—Nil.

SCAVENGING.

How is Refuse disposed of—(a) Destructor—No; (b) Tips—Yes; (c) Farmers—No. Total annual cost £1200.

Is there any inadequacy, and where ?—Yes, through insufficient labour.

Any change during 1945 ?—A new refuse collection vehicle obtained, but three more dustmen cannot be found.

NUISANCE INSPECTION.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1945—710.

Informal Notices served—61. Complied with—56.

Statutory Notices served—Nil. Complied with—Nil.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1945—19.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1945—121. Abated during 1945—116. Summonses or other legal proceedings—Nil.

Common Lodging Houses—Nil. Canal Boats—Nil. Knackers' Yards —Nil. Offensive Trades—Nil.

SCHOOLS.

No. of visits to Schools—14. Action taken—None required.

MILK SUPPLY.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows ?—Made by County Council.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1945 ?—No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district—78. No. Registered—78.

No. of Milk Sellers—42. No. Registered—42.

Total No. of Cowsheds—104. No. of Inspections in 1945—130. General condition—Fair.

Approximate No. of Milch Cows in District—1,000. Any insufficiency in Milk Supply.—No.

Legal proceedings under M. and D. Orders—Nil.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which milk is sent ?—No.

HOUSING.

Is there any scarcity of houses, and where ?—Yes, everywhere.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses ?—Yes, slight, 6 cases revealed by housing survey.

No. of cases dealt with—Nil.

Any special activity in house building, and where ?—No.

No. of new houses built in 1945—2 (temporary).

General character—Temporary buildings.

Are there any working-class dwellings erected by the S.A. ?—No.

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated ?—Yes. Powers delegated to Joint County Committee.

ACTION UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1936:—

No. of houses inspected—522. No. found unfit—418 (Rural Housing Survey).

No. of representations made to L.A.—Nil. No. of Closing Orders—Nil.

No. of houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders—Nil.

No. of houses made habitable after Closing Order—Nil.

Any compulsory demolition ?—No.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each ordinary Meeting ?—Yes.

Any cellar dwellings ?—No.

HOUSING.

There is a great shortage of houses in the district, many new ones are urgently needed. and owing to the difficulty of getting repairs carried out during the last few years many of the existing houses although occupied are unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at a reasonable expense (H.A., 1936, Sec. 11).

In my opinion this state of affairs is extremely serious because much of the benefit conferred by giving children milk in schools or a stay in a sanatorium is destroyed by the home environment. Also it seems to me to be useless to spend money on moral welfare as long as the people are compelled to live like poultry. It is absolutely impossible to prevent overcrowding unless more houses are built.

There is a great shortage of houses in the district, and many of the existing houses are in need of repairs.

A survey of all the houses in the district is in progress. It is hoped to raise a uniform standard throughout the whole County.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Is any Laboratory utilized ?—E.M.S. Public Health Laboratory Service.

INFANT MORTALITY.

What organised effort to control it ?—County Council has taken over this.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

Except where a Main Supply is available (Abbotsley, Catworth, Covington, Great Gransden, Great Staughton, Kimbolton and Tilbrook) the water supply is far from satisfactory. It has been necessary to cart water to Grafham, Perry, Toseland, Yelling, parts of Buckden and Stow Longa.

Although supplied from the main, the supply at Great Paxton is unsatisfactory. Samples have been submitted to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge, and some of them have been found unsatisfactory.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Out of 25 samples submitted to the E.M.S. Lab. for bacteriological examination 13 were not considered to be satisfactory.

Name of Town, Village or Hamlet.	Source of Supply, viz.: Public Supply, Wells or Ponds, &c.	Sufficiency or otherwise.	Quality of Water.	Whether Analysis has been made during the year and the result of any such Analysis.
Abbotsley ...	Main	Insufficient	Satisfactory	None
Buckden ...	Private and Public Wells	No serious shortage	Doubtful	Yes, 3 satisfactory, 2 not
Catworth ...	Main	Sufficient	Satisfactory	None
Covington ...	Main	Sufficient	Satisfactory	None
Diddington ...	Private Wells	Sufficient	Unreliable	Yes, satisfactory
Eynesbury Hardwick	Private Wells	Sufficient	Unreliable	Yes, satisfactory
Grafham ...	Private Wells	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	None
Great Gransden ...	Main	Sufficient	Satisfactory	None
Great Paxton ...	Main	Sufficient	Unreliable	Suspicious
Great Staughton ...	Main	Sufficient	Satisfactory	Yes, satisfactory
Hail Weston ...	Private Wells	Sufficient	Some satisfactory, some unsatisfactory	Yes, some good, some bad
Kimbolton ...	Main	Sufficient	Satisfactory	Yes, some good, some bad
Little Paxton ...	Public Wells	Usually sufficient	Unreliable	Yes, unsatisfactory
Midloe ...	Public Wells	Usually sufficient	Unreliable	Yes, unsatisfactory
Offord Cluny ...	Public Wells	Usually sufficient	Unreliable	None
Offord Darcy ...	Public Wells	Usually sufficient	Unreliable	None
Southoe ...	Private Wells	Some shortage	Usually satisfactory	Yes, satisfactory
Stow ...	Private and Public Wells	Sufficient	Doubtful	Yes, satisfactory
Tetworth ...	Private Wells and Mains	Sufficient	Wells unreliable, main satisfactory	None
Tilbrook ...	Main	Sufficient	Satisfactory	None
Toseland ...	Private Wells	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Yes, unsatisfactory
Waresley ...	Public and Private Wells	Insufficient	Usually satisfactory	Yes, unsatisfactory
Yelling ...	Public and Private Wells	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Yes, satisfactory

During the years 1946-47 it is hoped that all the villages in the area will be supplied with piped water. The Abbotsley-Waresley Scheme has been approved in principle by the Minister of Health and permission has been granted for the invitation of tenders for pipe laying at Stow Longa and in connection with the Buckden Regional Scheme. The Buckden Regional Scheme covers the parishes of Buckden, Diddington, Grafham, Great Paxton, Hail Weston, Little Paxton, Midloe, Offord Cluny, Offord Darcy, Southoe, Toseland and Yelling.

ST. NEOTS RAINFALL.

1945, 19.79 ins.; 1944, 18.69 ins.; 1943, 17.25 ins.; 1942, 19.36 ins.; 1941, 23.42 ins.; 1940, 23.09 ins.; 1939, 26.80 ins.; 1938, 19.99 ins.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

YEAR 1945.

HOUSING.

Owing to the shortage of building labour great difficulty was experienced in getting repairs effected, and accordingly inspections were confined to those instances where complaint was received and then the more serious items were dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

The Joint County Committee for Rural Housing made a standard during the year which was adopted by this authority and is the basis of the Rural Housing Survey which is now in progress. I am also glad to be able to report that during 1945 the Council made Building Byelaws which came into force on the 1st September, 1945.

At the end of 1945 522 houses were classified under the Rural Housing Survey as follows:—

(1) Entirely fit	...	17
(2) Minor defects	...	87
(3) Requiring major repairs or alterations	...	153
(4) Suitable for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act	...	117
(5) Entirely unfit	...	148
Total No. of Inspections made	...	710
Total No. of Notices served	...	61
Informal	...	61
Statutory	...	Nil
Total No. of Complaints received	...	121
Premises, Houses, etc.		
No. inspected	...	494
Nuisances abated	...	172
Pool, Ditch, Gutter, Watercourse		
No. inspected	...	50
Nuisances abated	...	14
Animals improperly kept		
No. inspected	...	3
Nuisances abated	...	Nil
Privy, Urinal, Cesspool, Ashpit		
No. inspected	...	6
Nuisances abated	...	6
Drains, Drain Traps, etc., etc.		
No. inspected	...	14
Nuisances abated	...	8
House, or part thereof, overcrowded		
No. inspected	...	2
Nuisances abated	...	Nil
Smoke Nuisances		
No. of observations	...	Nil
Nuisances abated	...	Nil
Offensive accumulations		
No. inspected	...	4
Nuisances abated	...	4
Other Sanitary conditions		
No. inspected	...	24
Nuisances abated	...	20

Lodging Houses		
No. registered	...	Nil
No. of inspections	...	Nil
Slaughter-houses		
No. licensed or registered	...	7 (not in use)
No. of inspections	...	Nil
Offensive Trades (Sec. 107, P. Health Act, 1936)		
No. established	...	Nil
No. of inspections		Nil
Canal Boats		
No. registered	...	Nil
No. of inspections	...	Nil
No. with infectious diseases on board	...	Nil
Public Health Act, 1936		
No. Houses condemned	...	Nil
No. closed	...	Nil
No. cleaned and limewashed	...	Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome		Nil (H.C.C.)
Infectious Disease		
Houses affected with	...	15
Houses inspected	...	15
No. of inspections	...	15
Houses disinfected	...	15
Schools disinfected	...	1
Disinfectant used		Formaldehyde
Lots of clothing disinfected	...	Nil
Lots of clothing destroyed	...	Nil
Privy Middens		
New provided	...	Nil
No. repaired	...	Nil
No. converted to pails	...	Nil
No. converted to W.C.s	...	4
New Pails provided	...	12
Water Closets		
New provided	...	14
No. supplied with water	...	14
Ashpits		
New provided	...	Nil
No. converted to ashbins	...	Nil
Ashbins		
New provided	...	8
Water Supply		
Samples taken for analysis	...	25
Samples condemned	...	13
Wells closed	...	Nil
Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	4
Public Supply substituted for Well or Pond	...	15
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	...	Nil
Waste Pipes disconnected from drain	...	Nil
Housing, etc., Act, 1936		
No. Houses closed	...	Nil
No. Houses made habitable	...	Nil
No. Houses demolished	...	Nil
Building Bye Laws adopted	...	Yes
Total Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	Nil
Convictions	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Factories		
Total No. on Register (including Bakehouses)	...	41
No. in which nuisances abated	...	5
Bakehouses		
No. on Register	...	12
No. in which nuisance abated	...	5
Home Work		
No. of outworkers	...	Nil
No. of houses	...	Nil
No. of infected houses	...	Nil
Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	...	Nil
Convictions	...	Nil

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE.

Considerable difficulty in the efficient maintenance of sewers arises from the absence of any record or plan showing the exact location of the sewers. In addition, as the pipes have been added from time to time, it is quite common to find land drainage pipes, brick culverts and glazed pipes all forming part of the same sewer; some unjointed, some clay jointed, and others cement jointed. Another major source of anxiety from a public health point of view is the complete absence of any adequate treatment of the sewage before discharge. In Kimbolton there are some septic tanks with trench filters, but these are far from efficient; in the remaining parishes, where W.C.s are installed, a septic tank has to be constructed within the curtilage of the property and the effluent turned into the sewer.

The sewers are largely for combined purposes, viz.: to receive surface and storm water as well as sewage, and the Huntingdon County Council contribute half share towards the maintenance cost of the sewers.

Fourteen obstructions to sewers were notified, and of these seven were due to outfall ditches which needed cleaning out; the cost to this Council for this work being approximately £200.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A Scammell Mechanical Horse with interchangeable tumbler and refuse trailer, with a gang of three men, is utilised for the collection of unburnable refuse and nightsoil in the district. This proved inadequate, and a new Dennis Vehicle was obtained for the collection of unburnable refuse; the Scammell and tumbler was then to be used for nightsoil only, as it was unsatisfactory for the heavier work on refuse collection. A scheme was made for the whole district, and it was hoped to obtain a fortnightly collection of refuse and a weekly collection of nightsoil. Three more men were not obtainable from the Labour Exchange, so the scheme has not yet been put into operation.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The Council having no apparatus for this service, contractors are employed and the cost recovered from the owner.

SALVAGE.

Difficulty in collection, owing to labour shortage and public apathy, is reflected in the small amount of salvage obtained. Waste paper, 6 tons 18¼ cwts.; rags, 9½ cwts.; bones, 8 cwts.

COUNCIL HOUSE MAINTENANCE.

Difficulty was experienced during the year in getting repairs carried out, and as soon as labour becomes more readily available, considerable work will have to be carried out, particularly as some of the houses will not comply with the "standard of fitness" as mentioned under the heading "Housing Repairs, etc." There are now 192 Council Houses in the area.

POST-WAR HOUSING.

During 1945 a good deal of ground work in connection with the selection and preparation of housing sites was undertaken, and in the near future the Council hope to start erecting the first batch of 14 houses at Tilbrook and Kimbolton. Their first year target is 96 houses. Two of the greatest difficulties in the way of speedy progress are high building costs and the absence of water mains in many of the Parishes. When the Buckden Regional Water Scheme is completed house building progress should be considerably accelerated.

DANGEROUS BUILDING.

Part of a building found to be dangerous was demolished during the the year.

RATS AND MICE.

At the end of 1945 this Authority agreed with the Urban District Council for the appointment of a Joint Rodent Operator. The Ministry of Food have undertaken to re-imburse the out-of-pocket expenses of my Council in this respect. As the operator was not trained until January, 1946, no disinfestation measures were taken during 1945.

WATER.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the houses, (b) by means of stand-pipes, are not yet available. The Rural Housing Survey when completed will give the required figures. I would estimate that at least 50 per cent. of the houses have not got a public water supply laid into the houses. The Buckden Regional Water Scheme when completed should substantially reduce this percentage.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans were deposited for the erection of 8 new buildings. 7 new structures were completed, and the remaining one not proceeded with on account of the death of the applicant. Many visits were made whilst the work was proceeding, and it was seen that it was being carried out satisfactorily.

FOOD.

The inspection of foodstuff is carried out by the County Council, and it is felt that this causes unnecessary delay and travelling, when this Council have fully qualified Inspectors on their Staff.

Under the Government's Centralised Slaughtering Scheme all animals are killed at a Slaughter-house in the Urban District. Mr. Dunning was on duty at this Slaughter-house, in the absence of the Urban S.I., and particulars of action taken will be found in the Annual Report for the Urban Area.

MILK.

The standard of construction of numerous dairy farms is generally poor, and while it is admitted that methods are more important than buildings, some improvement in the premises is very desirable. A frequent cause of anxiety is lack of sufficient or pure water supplies.

Bacteriological samples of milk are not often taken by this Authority and therefore no information as to the cleanliness of milk supplies is obtainable. It is desirable that routine sampling for bacteriological examination should be instituted.

No. of Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers) in District	...	79
No. Registered	...	79
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	130
No. of Inspections during Milking Time	...	6

No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, &c.	...	33
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	33
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	4
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	2
No. of Premises with Well Water Supply	...	44
No. of, from which Water analysed	...	1
Passable	...	1
No. of Butter and Cheese Makers in District	...	Nil

M. FAWCETT,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

LIST OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Abbotsley: Wisson.
Buckden: Peck.
Catworth: Brown.
Kimbolton: Whiteman, Hellett.
Great Staughton: Willmer.
Great Gransden: Whittet.
Yelling: Stocker.
Total Slaughter Houses: 8.

LIST OF REGISTERED COWKEEPERS & RETAILERS.

Abbotsley. Flint, Wisson, Wisson, Radford, Hart.

Buckden: Mann (E. E.), Mann (C. L.), Milner, Stocker, Brown, Mailer and Smith.

Catworth: Cook, Ives, Strangward.

Grafham: Odell, Richardson, Hart, England, Shelley.

Great Gransden: Upchurch, Searle, Payne and Son, Sanford.

Hail Weston: Arnold, Brittain.

Kimbolton: Bayes, Boyd, Capon, Brawn, Alderman, Jones, Woodham, Selbey, Baxter.

Offord Cluny and Darcy: Sabey, Gill.

Great Paxton: Thomason, Cardell, Judd, Harley.

Great Staughton: Brown, Herdman, Peck, Wells, Duberly, Brown, Hopperton.

Southoe: Nil.

Perry: Skinner, Baker, Topham, Horne, Johnson.

Stow: Elliott, Horsforth, Handley, Taylor, James, Johnson and Knighton.

Tetworth: Howkins, Peck.

Toseland: Jordan.

Tilbrook: Higgins.

Waresley: Minney, Walker, Sharpe.

Yelling: Findlay, Howarth, Farr, Melbourn, Sell.

St. Neots Rural: Newling, Wells, Lawson.

Covington: Brittain.

Little Paxton: Hodge.

Diddington: Woods.
Total: 77.

LIST OF FACTORIES (WITH MECHANICAL POWER).

Kimbolton: Loakes, East Street; Baker.
Watson, High Street; L. Pr. Printer.
Parratt, High Street; M. and R. Elec. Gen.
Robinson, Thrapston Road; M. and R.

Tilbrook: Queenby and Sons; Grist and Bonemeal, Seed Cleaning.

Great Staughton: Harding; Miller, Baker.
Fensome, Highway; Blacksmith.

Waresley: Baker, A. J., and Sons; Poultry Sheds.

Buckden: Robinson and Co.; M. and R.
Buckden Hosiery Co., Ltd.; Knitted Hosiery.
Inns and Co.; Gravel Pits.
Smith, Church Street; Builder.

Abbotsley: Collings Bros.; M. and R.

Southoe: Bruce Bros., Great North Road; M. and R.

Eynesbury Hardwicke: B.C. & H. Electricity Co.
Central Electricity Board.

Great Paxton: M. C. Harley; Landing Lamps.

Little Paxton: Trimmings, County Sports Works; Tennis Racquets, Bats, etc.
St. Neots Paper Mill.
St. Neots Sand and Gravel.
St. Neots Gravel Products.
Hunts. County Council.

LIST OF FACTORIES (WITHOUT MECHANICAL POWER).

Buckden: Stoneham and Sons; Plumbers and Decorators.
Hardwick, Builders.
Papworth, High Street; Baker.
Andrews, Silver Street; Baker.
Chelsea Food Products.

Great Gransden: A. S. Chambers, Middle Street; Baker.
N. D. Hyde, Fox Street; Baker.

Hail Weston: Kitchener, A. N.; Baker.
Page, S. W., Hail Weston Springs; Aer. Water.

Kimbolton: Abington and Sons; Tailors.
Flanders and Sons; Builders.
Parratt, T. J.; M. and R.
Foskett, H.; Tailor.
Gell, W., High Street; M. and R.
Hall, High Street; Baker.
Steward, East Street; Blacksmith.
Gray, East Street; Builder.
Wilson, High Street; Saddler.

Offords: F. L. Slade; M. and R.
Burton, Crossway House; Baker.
Allen; Blacksmith.
Gill; M. and R. and Builder.

Great Staughton: W. Wimpress, Highway; Baker.
H. B. Day, Highway; Motors.
Smith and Sons, Highway; Builders.

Tilbrook: Higgins, E., High Street; Baker.

Catworth: S. Bridge, Church End; Baker.
Salisbury, Corner House; Baker.

Abbotsley: Gibson, High Street; Blacksmith.
Harper, High Street; Builder.

Grafham: Bateman; Blacksmith.

Southoe: Thurley; Builder.

Yelling: Lewis; Blacksmith.